New England Deaconess Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts

pulse

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THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST

Although the ghost of Christmas past was a sad remembrance for Scrooge in Dickens' Christmas Carol, all the smiling faces on this page attest that the spirit at Deaconess during the Christmas just past was full of joy!

Our Christmas season opened on December 1 with the Friends of the Deaconess' Bazaar. The Central Lobby sparkled with all the seasonal excitement of buying, which has benefitted the School of Nursing since 1962.

This year each table did exceptionally well and the total has gone over $2,300 with gifts still coming in.

The Friends of the Deaconess who co-chaired the Bazaar were Mrs. Richard S. Paige and Mrs. George I. Rohrbough. Miss Lois Thomas, chairman of the Candy Table, reported $315; Mrs. Richard S. Paige reported

Cheers for the Hospital Christmas Party!

$430.96 from the Children's Table; Mrs. Lauriston Ward, Jr. and Mrs. Harry L. Jones co-chaired the Christmas Table and reported $307.62. Mrs. Willard Hatch, chairman, said the Flower Table earned $67.30 and the Food Table's co-chairmen, Mrs. John W. Norcross and Mrs. Elton Watkins, Jr., reported $328.80. Mrs. Roger Preston and Mrs. James T. Mountz, co-chairmen of the Household Table earned $396.50 and Miss Vera Russell, chairman of the White Elephant Table reported $434.99. The Gift Shop donated $25.

Parties abounded during Christmas week at the Hospital. Surgical Services sponsored a Coffee Hour on Monday, December 18 at which members of the department donated delicious fruitcakes, breads and brownies. Mrs. Beulah B. Benson and Mrs. Pauline B. Lazzara set up the tables and kept everyone's plate replenished.

That afternoon Miss Ellen D. Howland, Assistant Director and Director of Nursing, held her annual Christmas Tea in Harris Hall. This was the eleventh year she and her mother, Mrs. James Howland of New Bedford, have held the open house for which they both personally prepare the refreshments and make the decorations.

The green and gold decor, set especially by the green table linen and a gold wreath on the mirror, was cleverly carried out even to the fruit punch which had a green ice ring mold with red and green cherries

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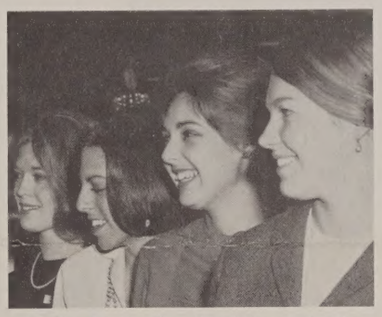

Smiles for the Hospital Christmas Party!

Co-chairmen of Bazaar at work.

Miss Howland's Christmas Tea.

I WANT TO KNOW

If you have a question about anything you hear or see around the Hospital, please write the question on a slip of paper and place it in the "I Want To Know" box in the Baker corridor leading to the Cafeteria.

With each passing month there is an increase in activity and a greater number of employees in our Hospital. Trying to keep everyone informed of changes and policies is extremely difficult. For this reason we are initiating a new column in the PULSE and I will answer the questions personally and directly.

Just submit your questions — there is no need to sign your name. I'll do my best to answer whatever you want to know.

R.D. Lowry
Executive Vice President

PAST THE BLUEPRINT STAGE

(Ed. note: This is the second in a series of articles in which Mr. Hubert D. Sycamore, Assistant Director, will keep us in touch with any building progress. Changes take time, but whenever another step is taken toward getting past the blueprint stage we will try and let you know through this column.)

After months of planning, the new addition to the Central Building went out for bid just before Christmas. Estimators from the five construction firms bidding on the $8.5 million project have been around the Hospital for the past two weeks inspecting the site access and other critical areas related to the contemplated construction. Bids are scheduled for return January 24th, at which time they will be reviewed by the Building Committee. Early February should hopefully bring awarding of the contract. Construction should start around March 1 followed by two to three years of work to complete the project.

Inside the Hospital, work continues on Baker Two as craftsmen from the Hospital's Maintenance and Engineering Department convert former laboratory research space to the new centralized offices for nursing administration and in-service education. This project is now scheduled for completion in early March after installation of a ceiling system of heat and air conditioning which will be identical to the system planned for the Central Building addition.

Dr. Cornelius E. Sedgwick, Chairman of the Department of Surgery, and Dr. W. Bradford Patterson, Program Director, Cancer Training Unit, have moved into their new offices in the former foot room area on Deaconess Two allowing the Observation Unit to function with a four unit capacity as planned.

Surgical Services' Christmas Coffee Hour.

Santa and his helper visit the Hospital Christmas Party.

MRS. KAY RETIRES

Camera catches Mrs. Kay's surprise.

Mrs. Artemis V. Kalousdian would have been at Deaconess 19 years this February and the Nursing Office wishes she had never thought of retiring. Mrs. Kay, as she is affectionately called, served as the first full-time secretary for the Nursing Office. Miss Lois M. Preston, Associate Director of Nursing Service, with whom Mrs. Kalousdian worked since 1949 remarked, "Mrs. Kay handled many clerical and administrative functions for the Nursing Service Department in such a pleasant manner that all of us miss her."

A tea was held in Harris Hall on Friday, December 29, which gave everyone an opportunity to wish Mrs. Kay well. Mr. Richard E. Lee presented her with a Revere bowl, which he said he hoped could symbolize some of the happy times she had had at Deaconess. On behalf of her many friends, Miss Ellen D. Howland, Assistant Director and Director of Nursing, gave her a Doulton figurine called, "The Last Waltz," which brings her collection to ten.

Mrs. Kalousdian and her husband, John, live in Newtonville. They are planning to do some volunteer work at a veterans hospital and she is looking forward to being a grandmother to her three grandchildren in Wellesley.

SPECIAL KITS PRESCRIBED FOR STOMA PATIENTS

Turquoise, pink and yellow stoma care survival kits are prepared by the Pharmacy to greet post-operative stoma patients. Miss Raili A. Karniala, Staff Nurse, receives a kit from Mr. Spiros Thomas, Pharmacist.

Greeting the stoma patient after his ileostomy, colostomy or ileal bladder operation at Deaconess is an attractive and convenient "survival kit." The kits come in three bright colors and contain everything from sponges, cement and solvent to temporary appliances, instructions, and information on where the items can be replaced.

The kit goes directly to the patient's bedside. It provides a tidy method of keeping each patient's stoma care material together while easily teaching both patients and student nurses exactly what is needed for postoperative stoma care.

Miss Edith Lenneberg, Coordinator of the Stoma Rehabilitation Clinic, said: "Stoma patients must surmount many problems in learning to care for themselves. This simple device eliminates some of the guessing for patient and nurse. Already, other hospitals are calling us to find out what is in the kit!"

Building Fund Pledges Total $2,820,423. — $180,000 to Go.

THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST

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. . . and checking it twice.

embedded in it. Along with the traditional cookies and cakes, crackers and assorted dips were among the refreshments.

Members of the School of Nursing faculty and the Nursing Service who took turns serving at the two buffet tables were Miss Ceneath Boulier, Miss Barbara Brookes, Miss Gloria Hayes, Miss Jean Hopkins, Miss Anne Howard, Mrs. Margaret McLean, Mrs. Chilla Merrill, Miss Lois Preston, Miss Joan Randle, Mrs. Judith Riggs and Miss Lois Thomas.

The Hospital held its Christmas party on Wednesday, December 20 in the cafeteria. Mr. Fred Cheney and Mr. Jim Webster baked over 50 dozen cookies, cakes with individual rosettes and brownies; and employees consumed 30 gallons of punch, eggnog and coffee. Volunteers from various departments assisted in setting-up. Mr. Lloyd Bilton decorated the tables and Frank Petty's boys provided music on the accordion and guitar. Mr. W. Clifford Fisher handed out a complimentary box of candy to each employee.

Part of the Glee Club singing at the Hospital Christmas Party.

Mr. W. Dean Holdeman chaired the committee which planned the party. Members included Mr. Theodore F. Koch, Assistant Director; Miss Charlotte L. Donaldson, Director of Dietetics; Miss Ethel M. O'Brien, Secretary to Dr. Meissner; and Miss Edith O. Wetterlow, Second Assistant, Nursing Service.

Mr. Vernon Truell led the Glee Club's singing at the Christmas party and throughout the corridors. This year the group included people from many departments.

A number of visitors enjoyed Christmas dinner with patients in their rooms. The Friends presented a check for favors for the patients' trays and with holiday place mats and napkins their meal was cheery and colorful. The cafeteria was attractively decorated for Christmas dinner by Mr. Bilton and the girls who work in the cafeteria. Although less people attended this meal than at Thanksgiving, Miss Donaldson reported that 18 twenty-two pound turkeys were prepared with a delicious oyster stuffing and other traditional trimmings. She said there was practically 100 per cent attendance of those scheduled to work that day.

The Friends held their Open House in the Central Lobby on Sunday, December 17. The student nurses had their Glee Club concert on the 14th; they also went caroling in the Hospital late Christmas afternooon. There were many other parties, some small and restricted to departments, and some such as the one in the Pharmacy. The season was enjoyable and entertaining — quite different from what "Scrooge" had to remember.

OR Technicians Receive Diplomas

Operating room technicians who were graduated from the Deaconess' one year training program this December are (seated from left to right) Miss Dolores M. Martin, Miss Jennifer A. Chapman, Miss Diane Gulczynski and Miss Margaret A. Burns, Associate Director of Surgical Services, who was director of the course. Standing from left to right are Miss Karen R. Sweetser, Miss Sheila D. Bradley, Miss Patricia L. Edwards and Mrs. Anita N. Haddad.

Seven operating room technicians were graduated from the Deaconess' one year intensive training course this December. Miss Margaret A. Burns, Associate Director of Surgical Services, who developed the curriculum for the course directed it again this year.

The program combines theoretical instruction with practical experience to train skilled assistants, which are constantly needed in hospital operating rooms to supplement the nursing staff. As the student masters information in anatomy, microbiology, ethics and aseptic techniques he is allowed to scrub as a member of the operating room team. The student also writes a case study of a patient's pre- and post- operative history which he presents to the class.

The technicians who were recently certified at the Deaconess Hospital to assist in the operating room under the direct supervision of a graduate registered nurse are Miss Sheila D. Bradley, Miss Jennifer A. Chapman, Miss Patricia L. Edwards, Miss Diane Gulczynski, Mrs. Anita N. Haddad, Miss Dolores M. Martin and Miss Karen R. Sweetser. Miss Chapman, Miss Gulczynski and Miss Martin will remain at Deaconess.

MISS WITHAM RETIRES AFTER FORTY YEARS

Before administrative assistants were so named Miss Eva M. Witham served in that capacity for Dr. Shields Warren. "Miss Witham's extraordinary skill in being able to translate ideas into effectively functioning organizations was a key in the development of the Deaconess laboratories from their

Mr. Richard E. Lee, Director, presents Miss Eva Witham with a gift of pearls on behalf of the Hospital.

inception," commented Dr. Warren, who is now the Scientific Director of CRI. Dr. Warren and Miss Witham started the labs on Palmer One in 1927. At Miss Witham's retirement tea both agreed that the forty years went by too fast.

In working to develop the laboratory to what it is today, Miss Witham saw the personnel force increase from two to over two hundred employees. Much of Miss Witham's work was in the centralization of laboratory activities, which had been handled by special purpose labs in specific departments throughout Deaconess. "We were one of the first hospitals to see the kinship between various lab activities, and we were the first to realize the importance of offering lab service 24 hours, 7 days a week," Miss Witham said.

Miss Witham helped evolve an effective laboratory cost control and cost cutting system. She was instrumental in keeping our lab costs below those of most hospitals. During this period the intravenous therapy department was organized with emphasis on specially trained nurses taking blood samples for laboratory tests as well as starting intravenous injections and transfusions, rather than the residents or interns as in most hospitals.

Miss Witham's contribution to the labs could continue for pages. But we recognize the impossibility of fully representing her forty years of dedicated and excellent service. It must suffice to say that when Miss Witham came to Deaconess, the laboratories in Palmer did not exist and today they are among the finest in the country.

From left to right are Miss Ellen Adams, Assistant Director, Miss Witham, after being crowned a Christmas angel with a wreath of money, and Dr. Shields Warren.

A party was held in honor of Miss Witham on Friday, December 15 in Harris Hall. Mr. Richard E. Lee, Director, presented the Hospital's gift and Dr. Shields Warren crowned her a Christmas angel with a wreath of money from her many friends. Miss Natalie Fossati, Mrs. Clare Shruhan, Miss Betty Terkelsen, Mrs. Shields Warren, Miss Dorothy Whitney and Miss Hazel Williams poured.

Miss Witham has left for Florida, where she and Miss Williams will spend the winter based in Pompano Beach. They plan to explore the state and do all the million and one things they enjoy in the way of mixing travel with photography. Miss Witham says they will return to Boston in the spring and then decide what to do next.

What do YOU do if there is a FIRE?

Mr. Charles Spalding, Safety Committee Chairman, reports that his committee is working on a program to make certain every individual knows what to do in case of a fire.

The safety rules for departments are being revised and safety representatives will be informing members of their department what each person should do during a fire. In addition, fire drill frequency will be increased.

Anyone may be selected to report a fire during the next drill. Would you know what to do if the fire was in your area? Where is the fire alarm nearest you? What extension should you dial to notify the operator? Answers for these general rules are posted near the alarm boxes throughout the Hospital. They are also printed below. Notice the additional remark that if you are not assigned a specific duty please stay away from the fire area.

Please familiarize yourself with the instructions — be prepared for the next drill or what could be a real fire!

GENERAL FIRE PLAN INSTRUCTIONS

I. If you discover a fire:
   A. Pull the fire alarm box nearest you.
   B. Dial Ext. 555 on the nearest hospital telephone and QUIETLY notify the operator. Give EXACT LOCATION of fire. Be SURE she understands.

II. When you hear fire alarm sound **OR** paging system announce:
"ATTENTION, PLEASE — DRILL (location)"
   A. If the fire or drill **IS** in the area where you are:
      1. Assist in the removal of any patients or people in immediate danger from fire or smoke.
      2. Close all nearby doors and windows to eliminate draft.
      3. Attempt to extinguish the fire, USING THE PROPER EXTINGUISHER, until relieved by fire brigade or other professional fire help.
         a. if the fire is electrical, chemical, gasoline, or oil . . .
            USE CO_2 EXTINGUISHER
         b. if the fire is paper, wood, textile, rubbish or cloth . . .
            USE WATER EXTINGUISHER
      4. Stand by to follow instructions from administrative officer-in-charge.
   B. If the fire or drill is **NOT** in the area where you are:
      1. Report IMMEDIATELY to your normal place of work **or** fire duty station. If you have no duty please stay away from the fire area.
      2. Follow your departmental fire instructions.

      Be sure you know of any revisions.

LOST & FOUND

Four snapshots dated August, 1934 labeled for Dave, Andy, Ken and John were found in a book donated to the White Elephant table for the Friends of Deaconess Christmas Bazaar. If these belong to you please contact Miss Vera Russell, Recreation Director, School of Nursing, in Harris Hall (ext. 376).

Leo The 'Pro' At Work Again

The professional patient with the ability to feign illness in order to gain admission to hospitals is "working" in the United States.

Leo Lamphere, the professional patient, stays on a short time and then discharges himself.

He appeared at the Springfield Hospital in late September, 1964 and he convinced the staff he was so ill that they admitted him immediately and he left five hours later.

He also appeared at the Cambridge City Hospital and Sturdy Memorial Hospital, Attleboro.

CAREERS AT NEDH ON DISPLAY

New England Deaconess Hospital was one of five hospitals and 46 other area businesses and schools participating in the Second Annual Greater Boston Careers Exposition held all day Saturday, January 6 at the Sheraton-Plaza Hotel. Over 3500 high school and college students visited the exposition.

Mr. W. Dean Holdeman, Personnel Director; Miss Anne Howard, Admissions Counselor for the School of Nursing, and Professor Britta L. Karlsson, Coordinator for the School of Medical Technology and Northeastern University, designed the Hospital's booth which made use of pictures and equipment to describe opportunities for employment and education at Deaconess.

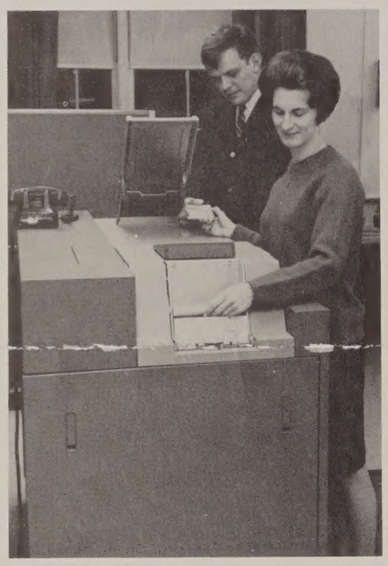
On hand to answer questions were Miss Christine M. Straggas and Miss Helen R. Breiter, School of Medical Technology students; Miss Sallie J. Thurber, a cytology trainee; and Miss M. Cecelia Buckley, Senior, School of Nursing.

Waiting for the Careers Exposition to open are (left to right) Miss Anne Howard, Miss Cecelia Buckley, Miss Sallie Thurber and Miss Helen Breiter.

OPERATORS and KEYPUNCHERS — DIVISION OF A DEPARTMENT

Mr. John J. Sheehan, supervisor, and Mr. James L. Langan, machine operator, prepare the paychecks for printing.

Mrs. Gwen J. MacPherson (standing) passes some cards for keypunching to Mrs. Angela M. Alexis.



Mrs. Virginia A. Raynor, keypuncher, and Mr. Peter A. Tegan, machine operator, at the card read punch machine.

In hospitals operators are usually thought of as surgeons, but when someone says he is an operator at Deaconess he probably means he is a computer operator. With our own IBM 1401 on the roof level of the Deaconess Building we have two computer operators and three keypunch operators supervised by Mr. John J. Sheehan. The Operations Personnel are in this month's Division of a Department spotlight. And they do more than push buttons!

The button pushing aspect of their work is nothing to be sneezed at, however, when one considers it means that the payroll for 1300 employees can be done in 2½ hours from cards to printed checks. This is the time the machine takes. Mr. James L. Langan, the operator, must prove that the information going into the machine checks with information received. Jim, under the direction of Mr. Sheehan, checks and re-checks every job before he proceeds to run the 1401. The two men must also be sure to run each job in proper sequence. For a simple example, it is critical that they enter new employee identification in the machine before doing the payroll, otherwise new employees won't get paid.

Besides the payroll the machine works 16 hours a day providing statistical and accounting information, doing patient billing, paying the bills we receive, handling inventory, general stores issues and a growing number of miscellaneous programs. An operator monitors this maze of machines with its blinking lights, whirring discs and noisy printers. He is responsible for inserting the decks of cards, changing the discs, feeding paper to the printer and, in total, managing the expensive equipment on which so much of the business of Deaconess depends.

The equipment, which appears to the uninitiated observer, as an unrelated mixture of boxes, is in reality connected by cables under a false floor. The 1401 consists of the main core storage, where the calculations are done; two disc drives and 21 discs, where information such as your pay rate is stored; a card reader, which takes information from the keypunched cards, and a console through which the programmer communicates with the machine.

The computer stands as an idiot until it receives information; and then it only knows exactly what it is told. If wrong information is on the cards and they are given to the machine there will be errors, but they will be human ones. Fortunately, computers don't talk back and are nice enough to accept the blame.

For their part the keypunchers check for errors in everything they keypunch. For example, they use the 402, an electrical accounting machine, to find mistakes they may have made in copying from the time sheets. With all the steps involved in getting out the paychecks — from the departmental level on through to the printing of the checks — errors are always less than 1%.

Keypunchers at Deaconess can run most of the auxiliary equipment in the IBM room. They duplicate cards on the reproducer and are trained to enter more information via a wired board. They run the collator, which merges or separates cards, and the sorter, which groups cards in requested orders.

Mrs. Gwen J. MacPherson and Mrs. Angela M. Alexis are keypunchers on the day shift. Mrs. Virginia A. Raynor keypunches on the night shift, working with the night operator, Mr. Peter A. Tegan.

BEHIND THE "8" BALL?

try your

ALPHA CREDIT UNION

NEW ENGLAND DEACONESS HOSPITAL BOWLING LEAGUE

DIVISION A

Team No.	Pinfall to date Incl. Handicap	Pts.
1—C. Schraub	18276	74
3—M. Foley	18029	50
4—S. Marotta	16129	48
5—G. Graham	17762	42
2—J. Halligan	15943	30

High Singles

C. Schraub	146
J. Swanson	121

High Singles for Year

J. Swanson	123
J. Dillahunt	143

High Three-String for Year

C. Schraub	370
J. Swanson	300

High Average for Year

C. Mullins	89
J. Swanson	89
D. Colella	104

DIVISION B

Team No.	Pinfall to date Incl. Handicap	Pts.
7—B. Laffey	17613	60
6—M. Hennessey	17980	58
8—D. Colleran	17517	40
9—B. Shapiro	12060	18

High Singles

B. Laffey	104
L. Grant	102

High Singles for Year

B. Laffey	126
L. Glynn	121

High Three-String for Year

B. Laffey	320
S. Meek	301

High Average for Year

B. Laffey	98
S. Meek	93

DIVISION C

Team No.	Pinfall to date Incl. Handicap	Pts.
14—J. Esch	18105	76
12—M. Coburn	17363	56
13—D. Dalton	17057	54
11—P. Gleason	16798	34
10—K. Gillis	14984	32

High Singles

J. Devere	114
B. Nickerson	118

High Singles for Year

R. Heaney	143
B. Nickerson	115

High Three-String for Year

D. McGowan	332
B. Nickerson	324

High Average for Year

D. McGowan	111
B. Nickerson	92